

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 07407 200840Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SSO-00 /010 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7927

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 7407

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, PARM, ENRG, JA, US

SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ON NUCLEAR TALKS; IMAI NUCLEAR
LECTURE

REF: STATE 114442

1. ESSENTIALLY SAME ARTICLE AS IN REFTEL APPEARED IN ASAHI
EVENING NEWS (ENGLISH LANGUAGE) ON 5/18, BUT WITH BYLINE OF
"NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE." PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REFTEL,
COPIES OF ARTICLE WERE POUCHED TO HOLBROOKE, NYE, AND NOSENZO
OF DEPT. ON 5/19, TOGETHER WITH COPIES OF MAINICHI DAILY NEWS
5/15 INTERVIEW WITH MINISTER UNO WHICH COVERED MUCH OF SAME
GROUND.

2. STA SAFEGUARDS DIRECTOR KURIHARA TOLD SCICOUNS 5/20 THAT
SECRETARIAT OF JAPAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION (OF WHICH UNO
IS CHAIRMAN AND WHICH IS STAFFED BY STA OFFICIALS) WAS DIS-
MAYED TO HEAR OF TIMES ARTICLE AND HAS INFORMED UNO THAT HIS
STATEMENTS REGARDING NEGOTIATING FAITH OF DR. NYE WERE
EMBARRASSING AND INCORRECT. NEGOTIATING TEAM MEMBERS
(INCLUDING KURIHARA) WERE OF OPINION THAT NYE WAS MAN OF HIGH
PRINCIPLE WHO HAD TOUGH JOB TO CARRY OUT. STA LEARNED
OF TIMES ARTICLE BY CABLE FROM WASHINGTON EMBASSY.

3. IN CONTRAST TO UNO'S BLUNT STATEMENTS, LECTURE AND
Q AND A SESSION BY DR. RYOKICHI IMAI AT FOREIGN
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CORRESPONDENTS CLUB 5/19 WERE MODEL OF DIPLOMATIC
BEHAVIOR IN FACE OF ARGUMENTATIVE QUESTIONS FROM FOREIGN
REPORTERS. IMAI STRESSED THE DIFFERENCE IN PERCEPTION
OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AS SEEN BY U.S. AND OTHER NATIONS.
HE TOOK POSITION THAT POWER-REACTOR-GRADE PLUTONIUM IS
NOT RELIABLE MATERIAL FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE,
THAT CONSTRUCTION OF ILLICIT NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE WAS NOT AS

EASY AS MADE OUT BY SOME, AND THAT THERE WERE MORE
EFFECTIVE AND LESS EXPENSIVE WAYS TO MOUNT NUCLEAR WEAPONS
PROGRAM THAN THROUGH POWER REACTOR - REPROCESSING ROUTE.
EMBOFFS WHO HEARD IMAI WERE IMPRESSED BY HIS BALANCED
APPROACH, HIS REFUSAL TO DESCRIBE PUBLICLY NATURE OF
ONGOING USG/GOJ NEGOTIATIONS, AND HIS FLAT ASSERTION THAT
PLUTONIUM RECYCLE IS NOT REPEAT NOT AN ECONOMIC PROPOSITION
AT THIS TIME. PRESS REACTION TO IMAI LECTURE NOT YET
AVAILABLE AT TIME OF PREPARATION OF THIS CABLE.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, POLICIES, NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TOKYO07407
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770179-1256
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770532/aaaabcbt.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2af6c58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 77 STATE 114442
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2425794
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ON NUCLEAR TALKS; IMAI NUCLEAR LECTURE
TAGS: TECH, PARM, ENRG, JA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2af6c58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009